DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS/Weapons of Mass Destruction

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1997 . . . S. 1894. Nunn amendment No. 4453.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 100-0

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1894, the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1997, will appropriate \$244.74 billion for the military functions of the Department of Defense for fiscal year (FY) 1997, which is \$10.2 billion more than requested and \$1.33 billion more than the FY 1996 funding level.

The Nunn amendment would appropriate \$150 million to fund the Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, which was authorized in the Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997 (see vote No. 177). The cost of the amendment would be offset by cutting defense-wide operation and maintenance funding by \$138 million and by cutting defense-wide research and development funds by \$12 million.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The Nunn amendment would provide funding for the Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, which the Senate accepted by a 96-to-0 vote just 2 weeks ago. The threat posed to Americans from weapons of mass destruction is one of the most urgent national security problems facing the United States. Throughout the Cold War, the United States faced the danger of a massive nuclear attack from the Soviet Union, but that danger was remote because the Soviet Union knew that the United States could respond with its own massive attack. The United States no longer faces the danger of a massive nuclear attack, but it does face the danger of a small-scale nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon attack, and that danger is far from remote. Many of the forces that have or may be able to acquire one or a few such weapons of mass destruction are not deterred by the threat of massive retaliation from the United States. In fact, that threat is not even remotely credible in some cases, such as when dealing with terrorist groups like the cult responsible for the deadly sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway. The United States needs to respond to this new and growing threat. This amendment would provide the funds that are needed to respond. We urge our colleagues to give it their support.

(See other side)

YEAS (100)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republican (53 or 100%)		Der	Democrats		Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans	Democrats (0)
		(47 or 100%)		(0 or 0%)		(0)	
Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Domenici Faircloth Frahm Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield	Helms Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings	Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone Wyden			EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	nced Yea nced Nay Yea

VOTE NO. 195 JULY 17, 1996

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.